

establishment in the breed. But, indeed, we could not expect to discover them in the few years which have been devoted to this enquiry. Many centuries would doubtless be required before a tendency to mimic evolves as a completed innate peculiarity. If we require instances of completed imitative action we have only to look about us with an open mind. In the present uncertainty of biological science we may take courage to suppose that imitation has also contributed to the spread of newly-arisen peculiarities from one individual to countless others—a marvel for which, if the novel trait is not actively helpful, the struggle for life affords no explanation. Why, then, it may be asked, should living creatures imitate some peculiarities and not others? We do not know. Children, it may be observed, copy some, but not all, of the peculiarities of their parents, and often select for their mimicry very unimportant tricks of manner.